

Ornithologische Monatschrift, XXXIV, Nos. 11 and 12, and XXXV, No. 1, Nov. 1909-Jan., 1910.

Ottawa Naturalist, XXIII, Nos. 10-12, Jan.-March, 1910.

Revue Française d'Orn., No. 10, Feb. 1910.

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Warbler, The, V, 1909.

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Zoölogist, The, (4) XIV, No. 157, Jan., 1910.

NOTES AND NEWS.

HENRY HILLYER GIGLIOLI, an Honorary Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Florence, Italy, December 14, 1909. A notice of his life and ornithological work will be given in a later number of this journal.

JOHN FARWELL FERRY, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at St. Luke's Hospital, Chicago, February 11, 1910, of acute pneumonia, at the age of 32 years. He was born October 12, 1877, and was a grandson of John V. Farwell, a wealthy dry goods merchant, and though reared in affluence, he preferred an outdoor life to the counting room of a great business institution, having early developed a strong love for natural history. After preparation for college at Andover, Massachusetts, he took a civil engineering course at the Sheffield Scientific School at Yale, graduating in 1901. He remained in New Haven till 1902, acting as secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association. For the next two years he was a traveling agent for the American Cereal Company for the New York State territory. Finding, however, a commercial career distasteful he became associated with the U. S. Biological Survey as a field collector, under the direction of Dr. C. Hart Merriam, spending one season in California collecting birds and mammals. On February 1, 1906, he joined the staff of the Field Museum of Natural History as assistant in the Department of Zoölogy, under Prof. Charles B. Cory, curator, and later made a number of expeditions in the interests of the Field Museum. In 1907 he visited various sections of Illinois, and in January, February, and March, 1908, visited Panama and Costa Rica, where he secured a valuable collection of birds and mammals. From Costa Rica he went to Venezuela, and made collections on the adjacent islands of Curaçoa, Bonaire, and Aruba. In January, 1909, he again visited the islands off the coast of northern South America and spent several months exploring the islands

of Tortuga, Blanquilla, Los Hermanos, Testigos, Margarita, Los Roques, and Orchilla. Many of these islands had not been previously visited by a collector. Eight new species and subspecies of birds were procured, one of which was named by Mr. Cory in his honor, *Cæreba ferryi*. In May and June, 1909, he visited the Quill Lake region, Saskatchewan, for the purpose of securing various species of birds in breeding plumage, with their nests and eggs, for use in the preparation of a series of exhibition groups representing the bird life of that region, in which undertaking he was most successful. His paper on the Summer Birds of Saskatchewan in the present number of 'The Auk' (pp. 185-204) is based on observations and collections made during this expedition. At the time of his death he was preparing a paper on the birds of Costa Rica, based on his visit to that country in 1908. He was an enthusiastic collector and excelled in field work. His publications in ornithology include papers based on his field work in California, Illinois, Venezuela, and Saskatchewan, as follows:

1. Ornithological Conditions in Northeastern Illinois, with Notes on Some Winter Birds. Auk, XXIV, April, 1907, pp. 121-129.
2. Winter Bird Notes from extreme Southern Illinois. Auk, XXIV, July, 1907, pp. 281-286.
3. Further Notes from extreme Southern Illinois. Auk, XXIV, Oct. 1907, pp. 430-435.
4. Notes from the Diary of a Naturalist in California. Condor, X, pp. 30-44, 1908.
5. A Month's Bird Collecting in Venezuela, Condor, X, pp. 225-230.
6. Birds Observed in Saskatchewan during the Summer of 1909. Auk, XXVII, April, 1910, pp. 185-204, pll. x-xii.

Mr. Cory's recent paper on 'The Birds of the Leeward Islands' (see Auk, Jan., 1910, pp. 99, 100) was based largely on the material and field notes of Mr. Ferry taken during his two trips (as noted above) to these islands.

Mr. Ferry was a man of exceedingly attractive personality, warm-hearted and enthusiastic, and had his life been spared he would doubtless have soon attained a position of some eminence in ornithology.¹

THE following respecting the Kuser Asiatic Expedition was received too late for use in the January issue of this Journal.

On December 29, 1909, Mr. C. William Beebe, Curator of Birds in the New York Zoölogical Park, sailed on the 'Lusitania' for London, accompanied by Mrs. Beebe. Mr. Bruce Horsfall, artist, followed on a later steamer. After several weeks' study of the pheasants in the British Museum, Mr. Beebe will proceed direct to Ceylon and India, where field studies will be made of the wild pheasants and jungle fowl. The

¹ This notice is based mainly on information kindly supplied by Mr. Charles B. Cory, Curator of Zoölogy at the Field Natural History Museum, Chicago, and on further details contributed by Mr. R. M. Barnes, of Lacon, Ill., who was one of Mr. Ferry's companions on the Saskatchewan trip in 1909.

object of the expedition is to obtain data, written, photographed, and painted, concerning the ecology of the Phasianidae. The tentative itinerary includes the Himalayas, Burma, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Cochin China, Palawan, Formosa, Eastern China and Japan, the party returning by way of Honolulu and San Francisco.

Mr. Beebe has been granted a twelve month's leave of absence without pay, and in his absence his correspondence and the continuing of his experimental work at the Zoölogical Park will be carried on by Mr. Lee S. Crandall.

The results of the expedition will be published in monographic form, illustrated with colored plates of all the more important species of pheasants, by Charles R. Knight, Louis Agassiz Fuertes and Bruce Horsfall. The treatment will be rather from the point of view of the ecology of the living birds and their care in captivity, than systematic and anatomical.

Living specimens of Argus and other rare forms will be brought back, together with a collection of skins and studies for backgrounds.

The widespread interest in pheasants in this country and the lack of knowledge of their habits in a wild state seem to indicate a field for such a work.

The expedition will be made, and the monograph published, under the auspices of the New York Zoölogical Society. Credit for the inception and the entire financing of the expedition and monograph, is due to Colonel Anthony R. Kuser of Bernardsville, New Jersey. The success of the undertaking will be altogether due to that gentleman's enthusiastic love of birds and disinterested generosity.

Mr. Beebe is in charge of the bird collection and the experimental station at Faircourt Aviaries on Colonel Kuser's estate, and the painting and all other monographic work will be carried on at that place.

THE DELAWARE VALLEY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB, whose organization was announced in 'The Auk' for July, 1890 (Vol. VII, 298, 299) celebrated the twentieth anniversary of its founding on January 6, 1910, at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. Forty-eight members were in attendance and Dr. A. K. Fisher was present as the guest of the Club. Addresses were made by Dr. Fisher, Dr. Wm. E. Hughes, Mr. Samuel N. Rhoads and Mr. Witmer Stone. In the twenty years of its existence the Club has done much to develop ornithological interest in the region covered by its activities. One hundred and eighty-one men have been enrolled as members, a volume on the Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey and nine annual numbers of *Cassinia* have been published, a total of 981 pages and 28 plates. Three hundred and thirty-five meetings have been held, with an average attendance of twenty for the past fifteen years. The officers of the Club elected for the ensuing year are: President, Samuel N. Rhoads; Vice-President, Stewardson Brown; Secretary, J. Fletcher Street; Treasurer, Samuel Wright.

THE offer of a reward for the discovery of any surviving representative of the Passenger Pigeon, as published in the last number of this journal (Jan., 1910, p. 112), naturally suggested to some minds that this offer would prove a good method of exterminating the last survivors, should any still remain, of this noble bird. But Dr. C. F. Hodge, of Clark University, Worcester, Mass., now in charge of the investigation, in reporting progress in a recent issue of 'Forest and Stream' (for Feb. 12, 1910, pp. 253, 254), seems to give assurance that no such result need be feared. After stating that the total amount subscribed has reached the sum of \$3,045, he says: "None of this money has been paid in and none will be asked for until nests have been reported and confirmed; or until office expenses have exceeded \$100 which Dr. Hodge has agreed to contribute to the work.

"The following points should also be emphasized:

"1. All the above awards are offered solely and only for exclusive and confidential information of the location of an undisturbed nesting pair or colony of Passenger Pigeons discovered during the nesting season of 1910.

"2. No one connected with this work wishes possession of any birds alive or dead. We are working solely for the absolute and universal protection of the free wild pigeon.

"3. We can give no information as to the value or price of skins, eggs or mounted specimens.

"4. All offers — that we know of — for freshly killed birds have been withdrawn. . . ."

It is further stated that nine localities have been reported where pigeons are said to have nested in 1909. These include points in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Kansas. None of the information secured as to nesting sites or places where pigeons have been found will be published until after the nesting season of this year.

THE following sad tale of the wholesale destruction of seabirds by Japanese poachers at Laysan Island and at Lisiansky Island needs no comment. It is taken from the 'Army and Navy Register' of February 19, 1910, and is based on an official report to the United States Treasury Department by the Commander of the steamer 'Thetis' of the U. S. Revenue-Cutter Service.

"A very interesting report has been received at the Treasury Department from Captain W. V. E. Jacobs, U. S. Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the Thetis, relative to the arrest of Japanese poachers and the seizure of birds and plumage on Laysan and Lisiansky islands of the Midway group.

"On the Island of Laysan fifteen Japanese subjects were found occupying and using for warehouses the thirteen buildings grouped on the west side. One of the buildings was full of the breasts of feathers of birds in bulk; another was two-thirds full of loose bird wings and a number of stuffed birds of various species, while on the sand adjacent to the buildings were about 200 mats held down by rocks, under which were laid out masses

of bird wings in various stages of curing. Two armed boat crews from the *Thetis* landed on the island under the command of Second Lieutenant George E. Wilcox, who arrested the fifteen Japanese subjects and seized all the plumage. There were taken 65 bales of birds' wings, 28 large and 3 small bags and 13 bales of feathers, and two boxes of stuffed birds. It is estimated that the number of wings was 119,000. It appears that the Japanese killed the birds during daylight with a stick and then cut off their wings and plucked them.

"The *Thetis* then proceeded to Lisiansky Island, where an anchorage was found on the morning of January 19 last. An officer and an armed boat crew were sent ashore at once to investigate conditions there. A party of eight Japanese was arrested, and the amount of plumage seized consisted of nineteen bales of bird feathers, one box of stuffed birds, one box and sixty-five bags of birds' wings. The number of wings was estimated at 140,400. Four small buildings were found on this island, one of which was used as a dwelling by the Japanese. A number of other islands was visited by the *Thetis*, but these were the only two where poaching was found to be carried on.

"From information obtained through interpreters it was found that the Laysan party was at work on the island from April 17, 1909, to January 17, 1910, a period of nine months. In August last the island was visited by a Japanese vessel, which brought nine new men and took away nine of the old party. The amount of plumage shipped from Laysan in August appears to have been 30 bales of feathers, aggregating about one ton, and 70 bales of wings, aggregating 128,100 bird wings. The same procedure took place at Lisiansky Island, a Japanese vessel reaching there with a relief party in August. The number of bird wings taken from this island in August is estimated at 108,000.

"The system followed in the process of curing the bird wings is, when the wings are cut off, the bone is removed and a small amount of lime is sprinkled on them or rubbed into them. They are then spread out on the sands to dry. If the weather continues good, the wings are cured in from four to five days and are then packed into bales. During the process of packing naphthaline powder is sprinkled over the layers, and when filled the bales are sewed up and are then ready for shipping. If rains occur during the curing time, the wings are covered with several thicknesses of mats, which are held in place by rocks. At the time of the arrival of the *Thetis*, being the rainy season in those latitudes, a considerable number of wings was found under mats in various stages of curing."

A press despatch from Honolulu, dated March 16, 1910, states that the twenty-three Japanese poachers captured by the officers of the '*Thetis*' were sentenced the preceding day in the Circuit Court to twenty-four hours imprisonment, the judge being satisfied that they were ignorant tools of others "higher up," whose indictment will now be attempted.